New types of nuclear fuels

*818. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new types of nuclear fuels developed in our country;

(b) when will they be commercially used for power generation;

(c) what is the per unit cost of these fuels;

(d) whether these are more cost effective than the earlier ones; and

(e) whether we have the technology for their full exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Three types of new fuel have been developed by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), These are:

1. Mixed Oxide Fuel (MOX), which is a mix of uranium dioxide and Plutonium dioxide.

2. Mixed Carbide Fuel (of Uranium and Plutonium), and

3. Uranium (U 233) Aluminium alloy fuel.

(b) A start has been made with the use of a few assemblies of MOX fuel in the reactor at Tarapur and this will be increased progressively. It is too early to say when this will be used commercially for power generation.

(c) and (d) Since these fuels are not being produced on a mass scale, and it would be unrealistic to work out the per unit cost at present.

(e) Yes, Sir. Technology is being constantly improved and innovated from time to time.

Newsprint manufacturing units in the country

*819. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of News print Manufacturing Units in the country, Statewise, and their installed capacity;

(b) what was the total production of Newsprint in the country during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 unit-wise.

(c) what was the profit or loss of each unit from their newsprint production during the above years;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of Government that indigenous newsprint manufacturing units have registered tenfold profits during the last one year; and

(e) whether Government are investigating the abnormal price rise of the newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) There are at present 23 mills in Schedule I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 declared as Mills manufacturing newsprint. A Statement giving the names of Newsprint Manufacturing Units, Statewise, alongwith their installed capacity and production during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is enclosed at statement-I (*See* below).

(c) A Statement giving profit or loss in respect of major units in public sector and State sector is at Statement II (*See* below) The data regarding profit or loss in respect or private units is not maintained by the Government.

(d) It is not correct that indigenous newsprint manufacturing units have registered tenfold profits during the last one year. In fact, the price of the indigenous newsprint has increased mainly due to increase in the price of various inputs like raw-materials, coal, power etc.